

NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Victim in attack at Montana State Prison identified

Montana State Prison officials on Tuesday identified the inmate killed at the prison Sunday night as Julio Santiago Jr.

He was killed by another inmate in his cell on the high-security portion of the prison about 7:45 p.m. Sunday. An inmate has been identified as a suspect in the attack and is being housed in the maximum-security unit pending completion of the investigation.

The investigation is being conducted by the Department of Corrections in cooperation with the Powell County Sheriff's office. Santiago's body has been sent to the state Crime Lab for an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

A decision on charges to be filed in the case will be made by the Powell County attorney's office. The name of the suspect will be released by that office if and when charges are filed.

No other inmates and no staff were injured in the incident.

Santiago, 53, had been at Montana State Prison since 2004. He was serving a 30-year sentence out of Lake County for criminal endangerment, two counts of criminal mischief, two counts of assault on a peace officer, burglary and theft.

Ross Swanson, acting warden, complimented the on-duty prison staff for its response to the incident. "These are rare and very difficult events to deal with in a secure facility, but our officers and other staff members handled the situation professionally."

He said the last inmate homicide at the prison was 16 years ago.

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